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I am a professional driver (long-haul tractor trailer) who uses XM Radio on a daily basis. To enhance my and the motoring public's safety while driving through the large metropolitan areas (particularly Chicago, where I travel frequently) I listen to the wonderful traffic/weather information provided by XM. I've tried this using the AM/FM radio but had no success. Since I don't live in Chicago, I'm not familiar with the local radio stations program formats, particularly those which offer frequent traffic and weather updates, if any. (I haven't ever found any!) The XM stations are extremely beneficial because they provide only traffic and weather information, and they do so continuously. So, for the 2 hours it takes me to traverse Chicago, I have accurate and up-to-date information to make safe driving decisions (IE, prepare to slow down, there is a traffic jam on I-294 just past I-55 up ahead... let's take I-294 instead of I-94 because I-94 is jammed due to an accident or sports event... etc.) I've never found an AM/FM station that provides this service.

If I were to attempt to find local information when entering a large area, I'd be distracted from safe driving by the radio hunt-through-the-dial trying to find a local station offering the information, and my chances of actually hitting a particular station when it's in the act of broadcasting what I need are slim, indeed, since most of them offer it only in 30 second sound bites at 15 minute intervals. I don't need the aggravation when I'm dealing with heavy traffic already!

The only time I use my AM/FM radio to get local conditions is when I switch it to the weather band to hear official weather warnings on NOAA's broadcasts. I've found local AM/FM radio to be nearly useless for weather. The big high-power AM stations rarely mention the specific area I'm in because they're trying to cover too much ground, and the little ones are more interested in playing their music collection and advertisements than in providing frequent weather/traffic updates.

It would be ironic indeed, after the FMCSA/DOT issued new hours of service rules for commercial drivers in the name of safety this year, if the FCC should take actions that would reduce that traffic safety by eliminating the information I relay on from the only radio I use daily!

I pay about \$16 a month for my two XM radios, for content which I can't get from broadcast radio. If broadcast radio, which I don't pay for, isn't willing to provide the content I need, why should it have the right to deny that content to me on the service I actually pay for?

Please reject petition 04-160!

Thank you.